

COVID-19 Close Contact Notification Letter

DATE

Dear Parents or Guardians:

This letter is to notify you that your child has been in close contact to another person with COVID-19 while attending (name of the facility). It is important that steps be taken to prevent further spread and ensure the safety of those who might be at risk of a serious infection. The following recommendations are provided so you may take the proper actions to protect your family and others:

- Your child will be excluded from childcare attendance until completing quarantine.
- Your child does not need to quarantine if they are fully vaccinated or previously infected within the past 90 days **and** they do not have symptoms. They **must** wear a mask through [date 10 days after last contact].
- Your child should get tested on([date 5 days after last contact]) or immediately if symptoms develop.
- Monitor your child for the following symptoms through [date 10 days after last contact]:
 - Fever
 - Chills
 - Fatigue
 - New or worsening cough
 - Headache
 - Congestion, runny nose
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Muscle or body aches
- If your child becomes ill, call your doctor to let them know your child's symptoms and that they may have been exposed to COVID-19.

Below are two options for quarantine that childcare centers may utilize:

- Your child may be eligible to return on [date 11 days after last contact], (10-day quarantine) without testing if they continue to have no symptoms. **Note:** This option should be utilized for all children who cannot wear a mask consistently and appropriately.
- Your child may be eligible to return on [date 6 days after last contact] (5-day quarantine), if they continue to have no symptoms **and** if they are able to wear a mask through [date 10 days after last contact]. A viral test collected no sooner than [date 5 days after last contact] is recommended and should be performed if available.
- **Note:** If there is a household COVID-19 case that cannot separate from your child, the child will continue to quarantine. The 10-day or 5-day options described above begin after the COVID-19 case's isolation ends.

Please confirm with childcare staff when your child may be able to return.

How to Quarantine:

- Your child should stay home and not come into contact with other people during this time. They should not play with other children in person during this time even if they feel well. It is possible to spread the virus to others before you have symptoms.
- Keep your child separate from other family members who may be at risk of severe illness from COVID-19 as much as possible. This includes those who are elderly and those with health conditions such as diabetes or diseases of the heart, lungs, kidneys, or immune system.
- Help your child practice good hand washing; remind them to cover coughs and sneezes, and clean frequently touched surfaces often.

Please follow these instructions to help protect the health of your family and the community and help control the spread of COVID-19. The **DHEC Care Line** is available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday to answer any questions you may have at: **1-855-4-SCDHEC (1-855-472-3432).**